Claims:

1. Use of an extracorporal shock wave applicator for providing a device for the treatment of soft tissue disorders in human and animal bodies.

2. Use of a device according to claim 1, wherein at least 200, preferably at least 350, most preferably at least 500 impulses are applied by said extracorporal shock wave applicator.

3. Use of a device according to claim 1 or 2, wherein a shock wave permeable sterility barrier is positioned between the shock wave applicator and the body.

4. Use of a device according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the shock waves are propagated by a contact medium.

5. Use of a device according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the soft tissue disorders comprise wounds resulting from thermical, especially burns, chemical and mechanical influence, radiation derived wounds, ischemia, necrosis, especially partial skin flap necrosis, treatment of scars, accelerated scaring, regeneration of grafted skin, diabetes-related soft tissue defects and necroses, soft tissue defects related to impaired vascularization, especially arterial and venous disorders, prolonged or impaired wound healing due to infection caused by selected virus, bacteria or fungus, decubitus-related disorders.

6. Use of a device according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the contact medium is sterile.

7. Use of a device according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the sterility barrier consists of an exchangeable cap for the applicator.

8. Use of a device according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the sterility barrier consists of a membrane.

9. Use of a device according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the sterility barrier consists of a film, especially a

tabular film or an adhesive film.

10. Use of a device according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the sterility barrier consists of a gel pad.

11. Use of a device according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the sterility barrier consists of a probe cover, especially an endocavity latex probe cover.

12. Use of a device according to any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein pulsed shock waves are applied in a total number of 350 to 5000, preferably 500 to 3500, more preferably 500 to 3000 impulses.

13. Use of a device according to any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein the applied energy flux density of the produced shock waves ranges from 0.05 mJ/mm^2 to 0.3 mJ/mm^2, preferably 0.1 mJ/mm^2 to 0.2 mJ/mm^2.

14. Use of a device according to any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein the treated area covers at least 1 cm^2, preferably at least 5 cm^2, most preferably at least 10 cm^2.

15. A method for treating soft tissue disorders in human or animal bodies comprising administration of shock waves via an extracorporal shock wave applicator to said human or animal bodies suffering from said soft tissue disorders.

16. The method according to claim 15, characterized in that said disorders are treated by the application of at least 200, preferably at least 350, most preferably at least 500 impulses by said extracorporal shock wave applicator.

17. The method according to claim 15 or 16, wherein a sterility barrier is positioned between the shock wave applicator and the body.

18. The method according to any one of claims 15 to 17, wherein a contact medium is applied between the sterility barrier and the shock wave applicator and optionally between the sterility

barrier and the body target site.

19. The method according to any one of claims 15 to 18, wherein the soft tissue disorders comprise wounds resulting from thermical, especially burns, chemical and mechanical influence, radiation derived wounds, ischemia, necrosis, especially partial skin flap necrosis, treatment of scars, accelerated scaring, regeneration of grafted skin, diabetes-related soft tissue defects and necroses, soft tissue defects related to impaired vascularization, especially arterial and venous disorders, prolonged or impaired wound healing due to infection caused by selected virus, bacteria or fungus, decubitus-related disorders.

20. The method according to any one of claims 15 to 19, wherein pulsed shock waves are applied in a total number of 350 to 5000, preferably 500 to 3500, more preferably 500 to 3000 impulses.

21. The method according to any one of claims 15 to 20, wherein the applied energy flux density of the produced shock waves ranges from 0.05 mJ/mm^2 to 0.3 mJ/mm^2, preferably 0.1 mJ/mm^2 to 0.2 mJ/mm^2.

22. The method according to any one of claims 15 to 21, wherein the treated area covers at least 1 cm^2, preferably at least 5 cm^2, most preferably at least 10 cm^2.

23. A kit for the treatment of soft tissue disorders in humans and animals with extracorporal shock waves comprising

- a shock wave applicator,
- a shock wave permeable sterility barrier and
- a contact medium

24. A kit according to claim 23, characterized in that the soft tissue disorders comprise wounds resulting from thermical, especially burns, chemical and mechanical influence, radiation derived wounds, ischemia, necrosis, especially partial skin flap necrosis, treatment of scars, accelerated scaring, regeneration of grafted skin, diabetes-related soft tissue defects and necroses, soft tissue defects related to impaired vascularization, especially arterial and venous disorders, prolonged or impaired

wound healing due to infection caused by selected virus, bacteria or fungus, decubitus-related disorders.

25. A kit according to claim 23 or 25, characterized in that a contact medium is provided between the sterility barrier and the shock wave applicator and optionally between the sterility barrier and the body target site.

26. A kit according to any one of claims 23 to 25, characterized in that the contact medium is sterile.

27. A kit according to any one of claims 23 to 26, characterized in that the sterility barrier consists of a membrane.

28. A kit according to any one of claims 23 to 26, characterized in that the sterility barrier consists of a film, especially a tabular film or an adhesive film.

29. A kit according to any one of claims 23 to 26, characterized in that the sterility barrier consists of a gel pad.

30. A kit according to any one of claims 23 to 26, characterized in that the sterility barrier consists of a probe cover, especially an endocavity latex probe cover.

31. A kit according to any one of claims 23 to 30, characterized in that the shock wave applicator produces à total number of 350 to 5000, preferably 500 to 3500 impulses, more preferably 500 to 3000.

32. A kit according to any one of claims 23 to 31, characterized in that the energy flux density of the produced shock waves ranges from 0.05 mJ/mm^2 to 0.3 mJ/mm^2, preferably 0.1 mJ/mm^2 to 0.2 mJ/mm^2.

33. A device for treating soft tissue disorders comprising a shockwave applicator, a contact medium and an exchangeable sterility cap.